

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 OES-07 ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00
DLOS-09 /102 W

-----035019 292222Z /14

P R 292120Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3941
INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 9946

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS PINS, PBOR, AR, CI
SUBJECT BEAGLE CHANNEL NEGOTIATIONS ARE BROKEN OFF

REF: BUENOS AIRES 9833 (NOTAL)

1. THE SECOND ROUND OF TALKS BETWEEN
ARGENTINA AND CHILE ON THE BEAGLE CHANNEL
DISPUTE ENDED ABRUPTLY AND ON A PESSIMISTIC
NOTE YESTERDAY (DECEMBER 28). THE FIRST
WORKING SESSION DECEMBER 27 WAS CUT SHORT
AND THE SECOND WAS CANCELED ALTOGETHER.
PARTING STATEMENTS BY CHILEAN FOREIGN MINISTER
CARVAJAL INDICATED THE NEGOTIATIONS HAD NOT
PROGRESSED, BUT THAT DIALOGUE WAS UNDERWAY
AND THAT EFFORTS WOULD CONTINUE TO SEEK
SOLUTIONS "WHICH WOULD SATISFY OUR AUTHORITIES".
NO DATE WAS ESTABLISHED FOR FUTURE TALKS AND PRESS
REPORTS THE LAST TWO DAYS HAVE PAINTED A
GLOOMY PICTURE OF BEAGLE CHANNEL SETTLEMENT HOPES DASHED
BY CHILEAN INTRANSIGENCE.

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2. ACCORDING TO A MIDDLE GRADE ARGENTINE DIPLOMAT WHO
WORKS DIRECTLY WITH THE BEAGLE CHANNEL ISSUE, CARVAJALS
PRESENTATION ON BEHALF OF THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT CAME
AS A BITTER AND SURPRISING BLOW TO ARGENTINE NEGOTIATORS.
GOA AUTHORITIES APPARENTLY BELIEVED THAT ARGENTINE
FOREIGN MINISTER MONTES AND CARAVAJAL HAD COME CLOSE TO
WORKING OUT AN ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE ON THE BEAGLE CHANNEL

DISPUTE DURING THE FIRST ROUND OF TALKS IN SANTIAGO IN MID DECEMBER. SOURCE POINTED OUT THAT CARVAJAL AND MONTES WERE PERSONAL FRIENDS, HAVING SERVED TOGETHER IN RIO AS NAVAL ATTACHES OF THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS SOME YEARS EARLIER, AND SAID THAT THEY ENJOYED A GOOD AND WARM WORKING RELATIONSHIP. ON THIS TRIP, HOWEVER, CARVAJAL APPARENTLY ABRUPTLY PRESENTED A NEW CHILEAN POSITION FAR MORE RIGID AND LESS COMPROMISING THAN THAT DISCUSSED BY CARVAJAL EARLIER. SOURCE DECLINED TO EXPLAIN THE NEW CHILEAN POSITION BUT SAID THAT CARVAJAL DECLARED THAT HE COULD MAKE NO COMMENT NOR RETREAT IN ANY WAY FROM HIS GOVERNMENT'S NEW PROPOSAL. AT THAT, MONTES REPEATED THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT'S OFFER AND THE DISCUSSIONS WERE BROKEN OFF. SOURCE SAID IT IS CLEAR NO AGREEMENT WILL BE REACHED BY THE FEBRUARY 2 DEADLINE (FOR ARGENTINE TO ACCEPT OR REJECT THE BEAGLE CHANNEL RULING). NO FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS ARE IN FACT IN SIGHT.

3. AT THIS POINT, SOURCE SAID GOA HAS THREE OPTIONS-- TO REFUSE THE RULING OUTRIGHT; TO ACCEPT IT WITH RESERVATIONS ON THE PORTIONS ARGENTINA CONSIDERS UNACCEPTABLE; OR SIMPLY IGNORE THE RULING, MAKE NO FORMAL DETERMINATION EITHER WAY AND TRY TO RECONVENE BILATERAL TALKS ON THE ISSUE. SOURCE INTIMATED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY PREFERS THE THIRD OPTION AND EVEN MENTIONED AN EXAMPLE OF A US MEXICO MATTER BROUGHT TO ARBITRATION

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WHOSE AWARD WAS LATER IGNORED BY THE DISPUTING PARTIES. (WE ARE UNCERTAIN HERE TO WHAT HE REFERRED.)
CASTRO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, WATER BOUNDARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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